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Letter dated 11 January 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, containing an account of the Committee's activities since the beginning of 2001 (see annex). The present report, which was adopted by the Committee on 11 January 2002 is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) Jorge Eduardo Navarrete
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone covers the period from January to December 2001.

2. A report of the Committee covering its activities from January to December 2000 was submitted to the Security Council on 26 December 2000 (S/2000/1238).

3. For 2001, the Bureau consisted of Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh) as Chairman, from 1 January to 5 September 2001, with the delegations of Mali and Singapore providing the Vice-Chairmen. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh) served as Chairman of the Committee from 29 November to 31 December 2001. During the reporting period, the Committee held five meetings.

II. Background information and summary of the work of the Committee

A. Background information

4. By resolution 1132 (1997), adopted on 8 October 1997, the Security Council, determining that the situation in Sierra Leone, following the military coup of 25 May 1997, constituted a threat to international peace and security in the region, imposed a mandatory ban on the sale or supply by States to Sierra Leone of arms and related materiel, and petroleum and petroleum products. The Security Council, by paragraph 5 of the resolution, also imposed travel restrictions on members of the military junta and adult members of their families. The Security Council subsequently, by resolution 1156 (1998), lifted the oil embargo, and by resolution 1171 (1998), confirmed the removal of sanctions on the Government and reimposed the arms embargo and travel ban on leading members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and of the former military junta.

5. On 5 July 2000, the Security Council adopted resolution 1306 (2000) in which, inter alia, it decided, in paragraph 1, that all States should prohibit the direct or indirect import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to their territory.

6. The Security Council, at its 4264th meeting, held on 25 January 2001, considered the report of the Panel of Experts it established on 5 July 2000, pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 1306 (2000), to collect information on violations of the arms embargo concerning Sierra Leone, as well as on the connection between the trade in diamonds and the arms trade (S/2000/1195).

7. At its 4442nd meeting, on 19 December 2001, the Security Council adopted resolution 1385 (2001), by which it extended for a period of 11 months from 5 January 2002, the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000),

except that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1306 (2000), rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone under the Certificate of Origin regime would continue to be exempt from those measures.

B. Summary of the activities of the Committee

8. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1171 (1998), regarding the list of leading members of the former military junta in Sierra Leone, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) who have been designated by the Committee as being subject to the restrictions of the above resolution, the Committee on 1 February 2001, deleted the name of Solomon A. J. Musa from the aforementioned list published on 18 February 2000.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998), the Committee reported to the Council, on 2 and 12 February, 22 March, in two communications dated 10 May and on 2 and 13 July 2001 (S/2001/105; S/2001/126; S/2001/261; S/2001/492; S/2001/493, S/2001/664 and S/2001/718), on notifications received from States on the export of arms and related materiel to Sierra Leone, as well as for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), and on notifications of imports of arms and related materiel made by the Government of Sierra Leone.

10. On 9 February 2001, the Committee approved a request from the Government of Sierra Leone for exemption to paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998), for Johnny Paul Koroma, Chairman of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, to enable him to attend the Conference on Demilitarization in West Africa in Accra, Ghana, from 28 February to 1 March 2001.

11. The Committee on 12 February 2001, examined the 90-day review of the new Certificate of Origin regime for trade in Sierra Leone diamonds, prepared by the Government of Sierra Leone and submitted in compliance with paragraph 2 of resolution 1306 (2000) and the Chairman addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council transmitting the above report (S/2001/127). Following a decision by the Committee, at its 21st meeting, held on 21 March 2001, that the new Certificate of Origin for the trade in Sierra Leone diamonds was effectively in operation, a letter to this effect was transmitted to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/300).

12. In a letter dated 13 August 2001 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Chairman noted that the Committee, at its 23rd meeting, on 31 July 2001, had considered the second 90-day review on the Certificate of Origin regime for trade in Sierra Leone diamonds (S/2001/794).

13. At the request of the Committee, at its 23rd meeting, on 31 July 2001, the Chairman addressed a letter, dated 13 August 2001, to the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, expressing the interest of the Committee in receiving from his Government any statistics it might be able to provide regarding diamonds exported from countries of the West African region, for use by the Committee in its monitoring of efforts to curtail the role of conflict diamonds in fuelling conflict in the region.

14. On 15 November 2001, the Committee approved a request from the Government of Sierra Leone for exemption to paragraph 5 of resolution 1171

(1998), for Pallo Bangura to travel to Nigeria for the purpose of undergoing training to assist in transforming the RUF into a political party.

15. To date, the Committee has received a total of 23 replies from States on the implementation of paragraph 17, and 43 replies on the implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 1306 (2000).

C. Violations and alleged violations of the sanctions regime

16. The Chairman attached to his letter dated 29 August 2001 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the text of a press statement issued by the Government of Sierra Leone on 21 August 2001, relating to an incident and police investigation of suspected transactions in illicit diamonds in the Freetown area (S/2001/827).

17. At its 24th meeting, on 7 December 2001, the Committee considered a letter, dated 4 December 2001, from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia, bringing to the attention of the Chairman alleged violations contained in the report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia (S/2001/1015), pertaining to the measures imposed by resolutions 1171 (1998) and 1306 (2000). On 14 December 2001, the Chairman addressed letters to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Zambia requesting any information that could shed light on alleged breaches of paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998), contained in the report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia. Responses, dated 28 December 2001, denying the allegations, were received from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Burkina Faso. The Chairman also addressed follow-up letters, dated 14 December 2001, to the Permanent Representatives of the Gambia and Sierra Leone concerning an alleged violation pertaining to paragraph 5 of the above resolution. Subsequently, a letter dated 7 November 2001, denying the allegation, was received from the Gambia.

III. Other activities

18. Pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 1306 (2000), on 5 January 2001, the Security Council conducted its second review of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of the resolution. Following the Council's consultations, the President made a statement to the press by which the members, inter alia, stressed the binding obligation of all Member States to implement and enforce the measures imposed by resolution 1306 (2000) and noted that the report of the Panel of Experts (S/2000/1195) had reported widespread violations of the diamond embargo on Sierra Leone.

19. The Security Council conducted its third and fourth reviews of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1306 (2000) on 5 July and on 13 December 2001. In his statement to the press on 13 December 2001, the President of the Council, inter alia, welcomed the continued efforts among West African countries, with the support of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to develop a region-wide certification regime for diamonds, and the establishment of a Certificate of Origin regime by the Government of Sierra Leone, and the effect of

those actions on curbing the flow of illicit diamonds out of Sierra Leone. However, he added, Council members noted that the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) continued to mine diamonds illegally, giving them access to funds which might be used to buy weapons. He indicated the readiness of the members of the Council to extend the ban on the export of Sierra Leone diamonds.

IV. Observations

20. In the absence of a specific monitoring mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the sanctions regime, the Committee urges all States and organizations in a position to provide it with pertinent information to do so. The mandate of the Committee pertaining to the arms embargo could also be facilitated by reports through ECOWAS and UNAMSIL.